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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

500.33021CX5

Applicants: T. NINOMIYA, et al

Serial No.: 09/933,805

Filed: August 22, 2001

For: STORAGE SYSTEM HAVING DATA FORMAT CONVERSION
FUNCTION (Amended)

Group: 2186

Examiner: H. Patel

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Technology Center 2100

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.97 & 1.98**

MS DD

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

March 31, 2004

Sir:

In the matter of the above-identified application, applicants are submitting herewith a copy of a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and copies of the documents listed in the attached form equivalent to Form PTO-1449 for the Examiner's consideration.

This information disclosure statement is being submitted after the mailing date of a final action but before payment of the issue fee and is accompanied by the following certification specified in 37 CFR §1.97(e):

On information and belief, I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

To the extent the documents listed on the attached form equivalent to Form PTO-1449 are not in the English language, the requirement of 37 CFR §1.98(a)(3) for a concise explanation of the relevance is satisfied by an English language version or translation of the foreign patent office report citing the documents.

It is respectfully requested that this information disclosure statement be considered by the Examiner.

Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (500.33021CX5) please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



Carl I. Brundidge
Registration No. 29,621
ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

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(703) 312-6600